

EPSTEIN BECKER & GREEN, P.C.

Kenneth J. Kelly (KK 4195)

Lori A. Jordan (LJ 0853)

250 Park Avenue

New York, New York 10177-0077

(212) 351-4500

Attorneys for Defendant

CIFG Europe

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

----- X
KATHLEEN G. CULLY, :
Plaintiff, :
- against - : 07 CIV. 8195 (PKC)

CIFG HOLDING, CIFG GUARANTY, CIFG:
EUROPE, CIFG SERVICES, INC., CIFG:
ASSURANCE NORTH AMERICA, INC., and:
JACQUES ROLFO,

**ANSWER OF
CIFG EUROPE**

Defendant.

----- X

Defendant CIFG Europe, by its attorneys, Epstein Becker & Green, P.C., for its answer to the complaint:

1. Denies the allegations in paragraph 1, except admits that plaintiff was formerly employed as CIFG Services, Inc.'s ("CIFG Services") General Counsel.

2. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in paragraph 2, except plaintiff purports to assert claims pursuant to the statutes and legal theories set forth therein.

3. Denies the allegations in paragraph 3, and respectfully refers the Court to the complaint for its contents.

4. Denies the allegations in paragraph 4, except that the complaint purports to invoke the jurisdiction of the Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1337.

5. Denies that venue is proper in this District with regard to all claims relating to the long term incentive plans that are expressly governed by French law. As to all other claims, paragraph 5 of the complaint sets forth a legal conclusion to which a response is not required, and to the extent a response is required, CIFG Europe denies the allegations in paragraph 5.

6. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in paragraph 6, except that the parties entered into an agreement tolling the filing deadline for claims purportedly under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

7. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in paragraph 7.

8. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in paragraph 8, except that plaintiff rendered services to CIFG Europe.

9. States that the allegations in paragraph 9 sets forth a legal conclusion to which a response is not required, except CIFG Holding Ltd., a Bermudian entity, is the ultimate parent of CIFG Europe.

10. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in paragraph 10.

11. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in paragraph 11.

12. States that paragraph 12 sets forth a legal conclusion to which a response is not required, except CIFG Europe is a French insurer.

13. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in paragraph 13.

14. States that paragraph 14 sets forth a legal conclusion to which a response is not required, except admits that Jacques Rolfo is a Member of the Executive Board of CIFG Europe.

15. States that it lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of paragraphs 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84 and 85.

16. Denies the allegations of paragraphs 22, 87, 88, 89, 91, 94, 96, 99, 100, 102, 103, 104, 106, 109, 111, 114, 115, 117, 118, 120, 121, 123, 124, 125, 126, 130, 132, 133 and 134 as to itself and denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the other defendants.

17. Denies the allegations in paragraph 128, except plaintiff was employed by CIFG Services and rendered legal services to CIFG Services and its affiliates.

18. Admits the allegations in paragraph 129.

19. States that the foregoing paragraphs set forth legal conclusions to which a response is not required and to the extent a response is required, denies the allegations of paragraphs 92, 93, 97, 98, 107, 108, 112 and 113.

FIRST DEFENSE

20. CIFG Europe was never plaintiff's employer and, by reason thereof, the complaint fails to state a claim upon which relief may be granted against CIFG Europe.

SECOND DEFENSE

21. CIFG Europe was never a joint employer of plaintiff with any other entity, and, by reason thereof, the complaint fails to state a claim upon which relief may be granted against CIFG Europe.

THIRD DEFENSE

22. CIFG Europe is not a party to the CIFG Holding Stock Option Plan or Restricted Stock Plan.

23. By reason thereof, the complaint fails to state a claim upon which relief may be granted against CIFG Europe regarding such plans.

FOURTH DEFENSE

24. The long term incentive plans that are the subject of certain of the claims asserted by plaintiff provide that such plans were governed by French Law at all times relevant to plaintiff's claims and that any claims or disputes arising in connection with such plans are to be determined exclusively by a court in Paris, France, having jurisdiction of such claims, to the extent that such claims could not be resolved by mediation.

25. The parties' attempt to mediate their disputes was not successful.

26. By reason thereof, to the extent that the complaint seeks relief relating to any such Plans, the venue of this action is improperly laid in this District, and such claims or parts thereof seeking such relief should be dismissed.

FIFTH DEFENSE

27. The plans alternatively provide that if CIFG Holding is not domiciled in France at the time that a party seeks a resolution of any dispute, then any dispute involving an employee located in the United States shall be resolved by arbitration in New York, New York.

28. To the extent plaintiff is seeking relief as to awards granted pursuant to any Performance Unit Plan of CIFG Services, Inc. (or its predecessor-in-interest), such plans provide that any claim or dispute arising out of or relating to those plans shall be subject to binding arbitration in New York, New York.

29. By reason thereof, all claims subject to arbitration should be dismissed.

SIXTH DEFENSE

30. At all times relevant to this matter, CIFG Europe acted lawfully and in good faith and had reasonable grounds for believing that its conduct with respect to plaintiff was in full compliance with the law.

SEVENTH DEFENSE

31. Upon information and belief, plaintiff failed to mitigate her damages.

EIGHTH DEFENSE

32. The complaint fails to plead fraud with the particularity required by Rule 9 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

WHEREFORE, defendant CIFG Europe respectfully requests judgment dismissing the complaint in its entirety, awarding it the costs and disbursements of this action, and granting such other and further relief the Court may deem just and proper.

Dated: New York, New York
October 31, 2007

EPSTEIN BECKER & GREEN, P.C.

By: 
Kenneth J. Kelly (KK 4195)
Lori A. Jordan (LJ 0853)
250 Park Avenue
New York, New York 10177-0077
(212) 351-4500
Attorneys for Defendant
CIFG Europe